

## VII. Training Specifications

Federal regulations specify minimum training levels for responders to hazardous materials incidents. The requirements for each level are detailed in this section the Montana Hazardous Materials Plan. OSHA enforces the requirements for federal and private workers (29 CFR 1910.120). State and local employees must follow the same regulations, but are overseen by the MT Department of Labor. Each responding agency must determine what level of response and training is appropriate. Agencies in the state of Montana, which provide appropriate training courses, including, but not limited to, the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, MSU FTS, and MT-DES.

It is the policy of the State of Montana, that all first responders be trained at least to the **First Responder HazMat Awareness** level. This includes fire fighters, law enforcement, emergency medical, emergency management and health or environmental personnel. This is the training level for those personnel who will initiate an emergency response by notifying the proper authorities, but take no further action. Awareness level training is useful to any person who may encounter hazardous materials, even incidentally, in the course of their work. It is also useful for administrative and support staff who may be involved in planning, preparation, or decision-making on any hazardous materials issue.

The **First Responder HazMat Operations** level is for those personnel who respond on-site to hazardous materials releases (or potential releases). With Operations level training, an individual should be prepared to take necessary defensive actions to protect people, property, and the environment from the effects of a release. The State of Montana recommends that all fire fighters, any law enforcement officer, emergency management, emergency medical, health or environmental personnel or anyone else who may respond to a hazardous materials incident should be trained to the First Responder HazMat Operations level.

**Hazardous Materials Technician and Specialist** level training is for those personnel who attempt to stop a release of hazardous materials. This training is required for hazardous materials response teams. It is the state's recommendation that fire departments that have identified a serious hazardous materials risk within their jurisdiction train several members of their organization to the technician level, with specialist support if possible.

Individuals who may be called upon to serve as **Incident Commander** for a response beyond the awareness level are required to have special knowledge and training in the NIMS. The State of Montana recommends that the LEOP establish a minimum number of qualified hazardous materials Incident Commanders to be available to provide Command at a hazardous materials incident in the county. These might include a fire chief, county sheriff, emergency services director, or others as appropriate to the county.

The following language is from 29 CFR 1910.120, effective March 6, 1990:

**TRAINING LEVELS.** Training shall be based on the duties and function to be performed by each responder of and emergency response organization. The skill and knowledge levels required for all new responders, those hired after the effective date of this standard, shall be conveyed to them through training before they are permitted to take part in actual emergency operations at an incident. Employees who participate, or are expected to participate, in emergency response, shall be given training in accordance with the following paragraphs:

**[I] FIRST RESPONDER HAZMAT AWARENESS LEVEL.** First responders at the awareness level are individuals who are likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release and who have been trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities of the release. They would take no further actions beyond notifying the authorities of the release. First responders at the awareness level shall have sufficient training or have had sufficient experience to objectively demonstrate competency in the following areas:

- (A) An understanding of what hazardous materials are, and the risks associated with them in an incident.
- (B) An understanding of the potential outcomes associated with an emergency created when hazardous materials are present.
- (C) The ability to recognize the presence of hazardous material in an emergency.
- (D) The ability to identify the hazardous materials, if possible.
- (E) An understanding of the role of the first responder awareness individual in the employer's emergency response plan including site security and control and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Emergency Response Guidebook.
- (F) The ability to realize the need for additional resources, and to make appropriate notifications to the Coordination center.

**[II] FIRST RESPONDER HAZMAT OPERATIONS LEVEL.** First responders at the operations level are individuals who respond to releases or potential releases of hazardous substances as part of the initial response to the site for the purpose of protecting nearby persons, property, or the environment from the effects of the release. They are trained to respond in a defensive fashion without actually trying to stop the release. Their function is to contain the release from a safe distance, keep it from spreading, and prevent exposures. First responders at the operational level shall have received at least eight hours of training or have had sufficient experience to objectively demonstrate competency in the following areas in addition to those listed for the awareness level and the employer shall so certify:

- (A) Knowledge of the basic hazard and risk assessment techniques.
- (B) Know how to select and use proper personal protective equipment provided to the first responder operational level.
- (C) An understanding of basic hazardous materials terms.
- (D) Know how to perform basic control, containment and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and personal protective equipment available with their unit.

- (E) Know how to implement basic decontamination procedures.
- (F) An understanding of the relevant SOP procedures and termination procedures.

[III] **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TECHNICIAN.** Hazardous materials technicians are individuals who respond to releases or potential releases for the purpose of stopping the release. They assume a more aggressive role than a first responder at the operations level in that they will approach the point of release in order to plug, patch, or otherwise stop the release of a hazardous substance. Hazardous materials technicians shall have received at least 24 hours of training equal to first responder operations level and in addition have competency in the following areas and the employer shall so certify:

- (A) Know how to implement the employer's emergency response plan.
- (B) Know the classification, identification and verification of known and unknown materials by using field survey instruments and equipment.
- (C) Be able to function within an assigned role in the Command System.
- (D) Know how to select and use proper specialized chemical PPE provided to the hazardous materials technician.
- (E) Understand hazard and risk assessment techniques.
- (F) Be able to perform advance control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and PPE available on the unit.
- (G) Understand and implement decontamination procedures.
- (H) Understand termination procedures.
- (I) Understand basic chemical and toxicological terminology and behavior.

[IV] **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPECIALIST.** Hazardous materials specialists are individuals who respond with and provide support to hazardous materials technicians. Their duties parallel those of the hazardous materials technician, however, those duties require a more directed or specific knowledge of the various substances they may be called upon to contain. The hazardous materials specialist would also act as the site liaison with Federal, state, local and other government authorities in regards to site activities. Hazardous materials specialists shall have received at least 24 hours of training equal to the technician level and in addition have competency in the following areas and the employer shall so certify:

- (A) Know how to implement the LEOP
- (B) Understand classification, identification and verification of known and unknown materials by using advanced survey instruments and equipment.
- (C) Knowledge of the state emergency response plan.
- (D) Be able to select and use proper specialized chemical PPE provided to the hazardous materials specialist.
- (E) Understand in-depth hazard and risk assessment techniques.
- (F) Be able to perform specialized control, containment, and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and PPE available.
- (G) Be able to determine and implement decontamination procedures.
- (I) Understand chemical, radiological and toxicological terminology and behavior.

[V] **ON-SCENE INCIDENT COMMANDER.** ICs, who will assume control of the incident scene beyond the first responder awareness level, shall receive at least 24 hours of training equal to the first responder operations level and in addition have competency in the following areas and the employer shall so certify:

- (A) Know and be able to implement NIMS.
- (B) Know how to implement the employer's emergency response plan.
- (C) Know and understand the hazards and risks associated with employees working in chemical protective clothing.
- (D) Knowledge of the state emergency response plan and of the Federal Regional Response Team.
- (E) Know and understand the importance of decontamination procedures.